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NSC BRIEFING

7 December 1954

OFFSHORE ISLANDS

- I. Island situation very quiet past 10 days--broken only by sporadic shelling of Ichang (in north) and Quemoy.
- A. Communists may have been waiting for clarification of US intentions or amplifying US comment on Taipei pact.
- B. Communists' 1954 operations have been marked by such alternating lulls and sudden increases in pressure.
- C. Heavy shelling and bombing may be renewed any time, in continuation harassment program.
- II. Communist air capabilities against islands may have been augmented recently.

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JCS review(s) completed.

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IV. As regards Chinese Communist naval capability, CINCPAC believes that:

- A. Commie submarines are probably not now operating outside Yellow Sea but that
- B. State of training of crews is sufficiently advanced to permit offensive operations should Chinese Communists so decide.

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